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**Physical aggression as a function of perceived fighting ability: An experimental investigation involving students and prisoners**

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RHP (Resource Holding Power) was manipulated scenarios depicting a provoking situation, either involving a young person in a bar with friends (students), or an insult at a prison meal server (prisoners). In Study 1, teenaged men reported lower likelihood of responding with physical aggression when insulted as levels of three RHP cues (size, allies and reputation) increased, effects that were accentuated by combinations of high RHP cues. Study 2 found similar results for samples of men and women in their twenties, although the effects were weaker at low levels of RHP. Study 3 found that both male and female prisoners did not show this same pattern, but were most inclined to say they would aggress to high and medium levels of RHP than to lower levels. Study 4, which included a wider range of response items, showed that among male prisoners this pattern was due to the greater need to save face with medium and high RHP, and the lesser importance attached to a provocation from a low RHP target in a prison setting.